

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action dated September 21, 2005. Claims 1 - 14 are now presented for examination. Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 14 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Support for these amendments is detailed in the remarks that follow. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 6 and 10 are independent.

Favorable review is respectfully requested.

The §102 rejection:

Claims 1 – 6 and 8 – 14 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Aziz et al. (U.S. 2002/0135296 A1).

Independent claims 1, 6 and 10 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter applicants regard as their invention. Specifically, claims 1, 6 and 10 have been amended to more

particularly claim that the function layer is comprised of a carrier injection layer, a carrier transport layer and a luminous layer. Support for this amendment is found at least in paragraph 0044.

Aziz does not teach or suggest a carrier injection layer. Accordingly, applicants respectfully believe Aziz does not anticipate Applicants' amended claims 1, 6 and 10. Since claims 2 – 5, 8, 9, and 11 – 14 depend directly from claims 1, 6 and 10 respectively, and since claims 1, 6 and 10, as amended, are believed to be allowable, then claims 2 – 5, 8, 9, and 11 – 14 are believed to be allowable as well.

Claims 5, 9 and 14 have been amended to more particularly claim a layer contiguous with the function layer and containing any of an alkaline metal element and an alkaline earth metal element. As shown in Fig. 4 of Aziz the reference does not teach such a layer in contact the function layer. Therefore applicants respectfully believe claims 5, 9 and 14, as amended, are not anticipated by Aziz.

The §103 rejection:

Claim 7 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aziz et al. (U.S. 2002/0135296 A1) in view of Hosokawa et al. (U.S. 6,157,127).

As discussed above, claim 6 has been amended to more particularly claim that the function layer is comprised of a carrier injection layer, a carrier transport layer and a luminous layer. Neither Hosokawa, nor Aziz teach or suggest a carrier injection layer. Accordingly, neither Hosokawa, nor Aziz, nor a combination thereof renders obvious Applicants' amended claim 6. Since claim 7 depends from claim 6, and since claim 6, as amended, is believed to be allowable, then claim 7 is believed to be allowable as well.

Summary:

In view of all the preceding amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that any objections or rejections to this application be reconsidered and withdrawn. Further action with respect to the present application is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner finds this application is deficient in any respect, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the Examiner's earliest possible convenience.

For the foregoing reasons, allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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